

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-19, 25-38, 40-43, 46 and 47 remain in this application. Applicants believe that no new matter is added to the application as part of this response.

1. Amendments

Claim 25 has been rewritten to recite that the laser beam is output from a below 300 nm laser. Support for this limitation is found in claims 36 and 37, as well as in the specification as filed at page 5, lines 25-30.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by these amendments.

2. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 16-19, 40, 42 and 46. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 36 and 37 claim allowable subject matter. As described below, claim 25 as rewritten is believed to be allowable. As such, Applicant requests that the objections to claims 36 and 37 be withdrawn.

3. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 25-35, 38, 41, 43 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seiki (JP 10-288799).

Claim 25 has been rewritten to recite that the laser beam is output from a below 300 nm laser. In his statement for reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, the Examiner states that “the claimed wavelengths (below 300 nm in claim 16) in combination with the other limitations is the main reason the claims are allowable. The prior art uses significantly greater wavelengths for such process.” In Seiki, the laser wavelength is likewise significantly greater (Ti-sapphire lasers operating in the near-IR). As such, Applicant submits that claim 25 as rewritten is likewise allowable.

Claims 26-35, 38, 41, 43 and 47 depend ultimately from claim 25, and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 25.

Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 25-35, 38, 41, 43 and 47.

4. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and prompt further action thereon.

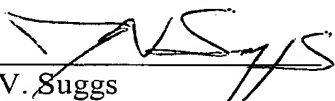
Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to James V. Suggs at 607/974-3606.

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Respectfully submitted,

CORNING INCORPORATED


James V. Suggs
Registration No. 50,419
Corning Incorporated
Intellectual Property Department
Mail Stop SP-TI-03-1
Corning, NY 14831